

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURH

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMCONGEN MILAN

AMCONGEN NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: PUBLIC COMMENTS BY PARTY LEADERS ON THE RESULTS OF  
THE ELECTION

1. CAUTION AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE  
POLITICAL SITUATION CHARACTERIZE MOST OF THE PUBLIC COMMENTS  
MADE THUS FAR BY PARTY LEADERS. NO ONE QUESTIONS HOWEVER  
THAT A CHANGE HAS OCCURRED. (NONE OF THE PARTIES HAS AS  
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YET MET TO TAKE A FORMAL POSITION.) A SUMMARY OF THE VIEWS

EXPRESSED BY LEADERS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES FOLLOWS:

2. COMMUNIST (PCI) SECRETARY BERLINGUER: "WE ARE NOW LITTLE MORE THAN A PERCENTAGE POINT BEHIND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (DC). THIS IS A NEW ELEMENT. DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS--THE NOVELTY OF THE NEW SITUATION COMPELS A PRECISE EVALUATION--WE WILL EXAMINE IN ALL OUR MEETINGS WHAT CONCLUSIONS WE SHOULD DRAW FROM THIS NEW ELEMENT. IN THE ITALIANS SITUATION, WHICH IS THE ADVANCE OF THE PCI, TO WHICH IS ADDED THAT OF THE PSI, AND IN GENERAL, THAT OF THE ENTIRE LEFT." AMONG REASONS FOR THE ADVANCE OF THE PCI, BERLINGUER INCLUDES THE PCI'S PROMOTION OF "...AN ALTERNATIVE FOUNDED ON THE UNITY OF WORKING CLASS, ON AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES OF THE LEFT, ON WIDER UNDERSTANDINGS WITH POPULAR FORCES..."

3. DC "DOROTEO" LEADER ANTONIO BISAGLIA: "THESE ELECTIONS INDICATE A CHANGE IN ITALIAN POLITICAL LIFE...BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1946 THE COUNTRY MANIFESTS AN EXPLICIT DEMAND TO SIMPLIFY THE (NUMBER OF) POLITICAL GROUPS. IN FACT THE PCI IS ADVANCING AGAINST THE PSI AS WELL, AND SHOWS ITSELF TO BE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THE DC. THE DC CONTAINS ITS LOSSES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE SMALLER PARTIES.... IT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID FALLING INTO THE EASY SEARCH FOR A SCAPEGOAT."

DC MINISTER MARIO PEDINI: "IT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID HAVING THESE ELECTIONS BECOME THE PRELUDE TO A DRAMATIC CHOICE BETWEEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY AND THE COMMUNIST ALTERNATIVE, A CHOICE IN WHICH ALL THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES INCLUDING THE SOCIALISTS WOULD END UP BY BEING DIVOURED."

LEFT-WING DC LEADER DONAT-CATTIN: "MORE DISTURBING THEN THE LOSS OF VOTES IS THE DISLOCATION OF THE DC TO THE RIGHT. IT MEANS THAT WE ARE NO LONGER A MODERATE PARTY. I DO NOT EXCLUDE THAT WE (OF THE DC LEFT) SHOULD RECONSIDER OUR POSITION IN THE PARTY ."

4. SOCIALIST LEADER PIETRO NENNI: "WE FIND OURSELVES BEFORE A NEW SITUATION WHICH MUST BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED IN ORDER THAT EVERYONE CAN ASSUME HIS SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES."

"HOW COULD IT (THE GOVERNMENT) AVOID FALLING, AFTER A DEVELOPMENT OF THIS NATURE? ... HOW CAN WE SUPPORT IT?... IT (THE HISTORIC COMPROMIS) WILL MAKE HEADWAY, OR ITS CON-  
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TRARY WILL; THAT IS, A BLOC OF THE LEFT."

PSI FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR LUIGI BERTOLDI: "THESE RESULTS WHICH PROFOUNDLY MODIFY THE POLITICAL BALANCE IN THE COUNTRY, WILL HAVE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE FORMATION OF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS. FOR THE MOMENT I THINK THAT A GOVERNMENT CRISIS SHOULD BE AVOIDED, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE EVERY PARTY HAS TO ANALYZE THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ELEC-

TIONS, BUT I THINK NO ONE CAN DENY THAT THEIR IMPACT ON THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT WILL NOT BE LONG DELAYED...

PSI LEADER ANTONIO LANDOLFI, A FOLLOWER OF GIACOMO MANCINI: "THE (PRESENT) BALANCE OF POWER IN PARLIAMENT WHICH ONE MIGHT TRY TO USE TO COMPEL THE SOCIALISTS TO COVER THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DEFEAT NO LONGER CORRESPONDS TO THE REALITY OF THE ELECTORATE. AN IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION IS NECESSARY AND DESPITE OUR RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC QUALIFICATIONS OF (PRIME MINISTER) MORO, WE SHOULD FOR THIS PURPOSE CONSIDER ENDED THE LIFE OF THE TWO-PARTY (MORO) GOVERNMENT."

FORMER PSI MINISTER GIOLITTI: "IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO KEEP THIS GOVERNMENT ON ITS FEET FOR A FEW MONTHS. HOWEVER IN MY VIEW THE CENTER-LEFT IS DEAD AND BURIED... I THINK EARLY ELECTION WILL BE NECESSARY... ONLY UNDER THIS CONDITION (OF EARLY ELECTIONS), AND ONLY UNTIL THE VOTE ITSELF, CAN THE GOVERNMENT REMAIN STANDING." TO THE QUESTION WHETHER HIS PARTY AGREED WITH THESE VIEWS GIOLITTI REPLIED: "WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO? WE WILL FORM ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE LEFT EVERYWHERE, BY ALL MEANS IN LIGURIA, IN MARCHE, PERHAPS IN PIEMONTE. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT A CENTER-LEFT CANNOT MAINTAIN ITSELF IN ANY MANNER, AND THEREFORE AT THIS POINT IT IS NECESSARY TO WORK FOR THE ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT. THIS IS A COUNTRY IN WHICH THERE HAS LONG BEEN A LARGE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH CAN CONQUER THE POWER, EVEN IF IT HAS THE MISFORTUNE OF CALLING ITSELF COMMUNIST."

5. REPUBLICAN PARTY PRESIDENT UGO LA MALFA: "WHETHER ITALY REMAINS TIED TO THE SYSTEM OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION, AS REPUBLICANS HAVE ALWAYS HOPED, OR WHETHER IT WILL BE PUSHED BY INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL FORCES TO OTHER EXPERIENCES DEPENDS PRECISELY, AND IN THE PROPORTIONS INDICATED, ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES."

PRI SECRETARY ODDO BIASINI: "FOR THE TIME BEING AS OUR FIRST TASK WE MUST MAINTAIN THE LIFE OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE SEASON OF THE (PARTY) CONGRESSES. ONLY THEN WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE A MORE PROFOUND AND COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION."

6. FOUNDER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSDI) AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, GIUSEPPE SARAGAT: "TODAY THE SITUATION IS DIFFICULT. THE DANGER COMES FROM THE USSR. WHATEVER MAY BE THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF THE COMMUNISTS IN OUR HOUSE. BUT COMMUNISM SHOULD BE OPPOSED ON THE GROUND OF DEMOCRACY WHICH IS NOT THAT OF DISARMED NEUTRALITY BUT INTERNAL POLITICS; IT IS THE CONFRONTATION ON THE LEVEL OF

SOCIAL REFORMS AND FOREIGN POLICY, OF LOYALTY TO THE ATLANTIC  
ALLIANCE WHICH WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY THE PARTNERSHIP OF  
A UNITED EUROPE WITH AN AMERICA CONSCIOUS THAT, BY DEFENDING  
EUROPE, IT DEFENDS ITSELF AS WELL. EITHER WE WILL BE FREE  
WITH AMERICA, OR WE WILL BE AS SLAVES WITH THE USSR."VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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